

**VETERANS AND SENIORS COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Veterans and Seniors Committee was held at the William H. Rogers Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, in the Rose Y. Caracappa Auditorium, on Thursday, **June 20, 2002**, at 10:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator William Lindsay, Chair
Legislator Martin Haley, Vice Chair
Legislator Cameron Alden
Legislator Andrew Crecca
Legislator Lynne Nowick

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Terry Pearsall, Legislative Aide to Legislator Lindsay
Tom Donovan, Legislative Aide to Presiding Officer Tonna
Joe Muncey, Budget Review Office
Bill Faulk, County Executive's Office
Art Lozeau, Veterans Service Agency
George Lipponer, Chosin Few USMC

Minutes Taken By:
Kimberly Castiglione, Legislative Secretary

(The meeting was called to order at 10:40 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

I would like to call the Seniors and Veterans Committee to order. Please rise for the Pledge which will be led by Legislator Alden.

(Salutation)

The record could reflect that Legislator Crecca is in transit. He should be here in a little while. Do we have any cards? Does anyone want to address the committee? We have a presentation by George Lipponer. George, come on forward.

MR. LIPPONER:

Good morning Legislators and citizens and veterans. I represent the Chosin Few and I happen to be a member of the US Marine Corp. This event of the Chosin took place in the first winter in 1950, November and December. It was at a time when the Chinese went into war and they were sworn to do one thing and that was to annihilate that whole part of 10th Corp where we were. It was annihilation of our group. We were encircled for several weeks, and we ended up with a 60 some mile march out to the sea. It was not a retreat as {Chester Puller} put it so aptly one

time. He said it was an attack in another direction. But we did get out and we also had Army members and the Navy was waiting for us in the Port City of Hamhung and took us out, along with over 100,000 men, women and children of Korean civilians. It was several years ago that I met a lady who told me she was five years old on that evacuation and she is living a productive life here in America now.

(Legislator Crecca entered the meeting at 10:44 a.m.)

But anyhow, what we would like to do, being that the Korean War was such a forgotten war, we would like to emphasize our part in it by placing a monument, and we seek your permission for a location to place this monument in the Armed Forces Plaza. The monument is fully funded. It is paid for by us as a group and it will be no expense to the County.

We also have a program where we are anxiously working on locating the 8,000 remains of the missing in action from the Korean War and accounting of the people that were prisoners of war that were never returned to us.

Once again, this is a request to the County to have a location for this monument. It is a piece of {barry} granite that will have a bronze plaque on it. It is about four feet wide, three foot high, and there will be a bronze plaque on it. On it will be the names and dates of this event, November, December, 1950. It is also representing the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corp. In short, that is about it.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

I wholeheartedly support your efforts. I have a question, though. Recently, and I guess it is over the past like five, six years, the United States Government has made a big effort to cooperate even in Vietnam and Cambodian to try to recover remains and anything else, any forensics that they can, to identify, and also to cooperate as far as for prisoner identification and things like that. That is not going on with Korea?

MR. LIPPONER:

Yes, it is. Oh, yes. We have a group that participates in that. In North Korea they finally let us in there. Of course, they like to get paid for this real well, and they are. They want big bucks, the US dollar, to pay for these search missions in there. But it is going on, but the locations, it was over 50 years ago, and you know, the terrain changes and whatever. But, it is an ongoing effort, yes.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Because every now and then we see an update on as far as what is happening in Vietnam and that area. We do see some successful recoveries and things like that, but I hadn't really heard that much about –

MR. LIPPONER:

There have been a few, but not many. Not many at all, no.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Thanks.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Legislator Nowick.

LEGISLATOR NOWICK:

Did I understand correctly, you already have the monument?

MR. LIPPONER:

Yes.

LEGISLATOR NOWICK:

You already have it and you are just looking for a place to put it.

MR. LIPPONER:

Exactly, yes. We have already placed one in Rockville Center in the Veterans Park there and in Calverton and Pinelawn.

LEGISLATOR NOWICK:

Okay. Thank you.

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

I apologize that I came in late, Sir. Do you have a picture of the monument or what it looks like?

MR. LIPPONER:

Yes.

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

Would that be something that we could just pass around among the Legislators to take a look at?

MR. LIPPONER:

That would be wonderful. The pictures are from the Rockville Center event. That was Memorial Day 2000.

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

One of the Aides there will grab it from you. Mr. Chairman

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Yes, Legislator Crecca.

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

The question I have is, has this been presented to the Monument Committee yet, Joe Caracappa's committee? Or I would ask that – the County has a site selection and monument committee.

MR. LIPPONER:

Yes.

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

Has anything been presented to them yet?

MR. LIPPONER:

Yes, I have presented it to Joe Caracappa and he sent me a copy of his legislation that he has introduced. It is resolution 1698. Is there a copy?

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

We have it. There is a committee for that, but I was just asked, that's all. In other words, you haven't gone to the site and monument committee and done a presentation.

MR. LIPPONER:

No.

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

That's fine. That is all I was asking. I apologize.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Does anyone on the committee have any other comments about it? Art, do you have any input into this?

MR. LOZEAU:

No.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

No? Okay. Thank you very much, George. We will take this up in just a very few moments. It is kind of refreshing to have someone come to us and already have the monument and not look for money from us.

MR. LIPPONER:

Well, we are funding all our own. That is the procedure we are following on that. We are a small group. We perhaps are 30 active members. We get together once a month in the Garden City Marine Corp Reserve Unit and that encompasses the area of Manhattan, Staten Island and all of Long Island, so there is considerable travel involved here, especially we are getting a little older now, and when the weather gets bad some of the members can't make it, but we are an active group and we just want to do our part to making this Korean War not be a forgotten war.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

I would assume that you'd probably want it near the Korean War monument. Am I correct?

MR. LIPPONER:

Yeah, that was our request, yes. But there was a problem there – they were possibly going to widen the road and how much they would take and if that location would be –

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

I don't think that – we talked about that at the last committee cycle. We are being told we don't think that will affect us where the monuments are now, so if it is in that vicinity it will be okay.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

I was told it might come in inside that tree line that exists there presently, as much as maybe ten feet inside that. But it won't knock down the monuments that are there right now, but future –

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

I have seen the plans, that is the only reason why I say it. The current plan that exists for there, it may take some of the trees, but it may not even take all of them. It doesn't encroach anywhere near any of the existing monuments that are there.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Again, thank you, George. Just remember your photos. If nobody else wants to address the committee, if we could go to tabled resolutions.

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

1296-02 Authorizing conveyance of parcel to Suffolk County United Veterans, Town of Brookhaven (Section 72-h, General Municipal Law).

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

We are waiting for a resolution, right?

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

We are waiting for town action. I haven't been notified. Do you have some information for us? Great.

MR. FAULK:

I spoke to Bill Doyle this morning from Fred Towle's office.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

You better get your name on the record.

MR. FAULK:

Bill Faulk, County Executive's Office. He said that they still don't have a town board resolution for it yet, they are working on it.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay. With that, I will make a motion to table.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Second.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

All in favor? **(Vote: 5/0/0/0)**

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

1698-02 Authorizing the erection of a monument at the Armed Forces Plaza at the H. Lee Dennison Executive Office Building by "The Chosin Few".

Do I have a motion?

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

I will make a motion.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Second. All in favor? Approved. **(Vote: 5/0/0/0)**. Please put down the whole committee as a cosponsor.

Without anything else on our agenda, motion to adjourn.

(The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.)

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